Vol. VII. Numb. 74

THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Reflexions on the treacherous Deſigns of the French *in* Flanders. *On the Juſtneſs of the Endeavours of the Emperor, and his Allies, to bring the Pope to Reaſon. On an unjuſt Charge againſt the* Obſervator, *as reflecting on the Duke of* Marlborough. *On the Death of his Royal Highneſs Prince* George *of* Denmark. *The* Country-man's *Lines upon it.*

From **Wednesday**, October 27. to **Saturday**, October 30. 1708.

Country-m. WE muſt have a little more Talk, Maſter, about the Affairs of *Flanders.*

Obſ. I thought you had talk'd your ſelf dry upon that Subject, *Roger*; what have you to ſay now?

Country-m. Do you think I have talk'd my ſelf dry, Maſter, upon ſuch a copious Subject, already? Certainly you don't think my Invention ſo barren!

Obſ. Out with it then, *Roger*; I know thou ar't an honeſt as well as a ſenſible Fellow.

Country-m. Why, truly, Maſter, if you won't be angry, I deſign to entertain you with ſome of *Joan*'s Reflexions upon the Campaign in the *Netherlands.*

Obſ. We muſt allow the good Women to ſpend their Verdict now and then, *Roger*; pray what does ſhe ſay?

Country-m. Say! Maſter, ſhe ſays, the Spirit of Courage, Senſe, and Conduct has left the *French*, and is come over to us.

Obſ. A very pretty Reflexion, *Roger*, upon my Word: How does ſhe make it out?

Country-m. She makes it out thus, Maſter: She ſays, the *French* King's Generals act like a Parcel of High-way-men, or Fellows that rob Henroofts; they dare not venture upon a brave Action, but behave themſelves like Burglars and Shop-lifts, who get into Peoples Houſes by corrupting their Servants; and juſt ſo, ſhe ſays, the *French* ſtole *Ghent* and *Bruges* from us, and have lately attempted to ſteal *Antwerp*, *Aeth*, &c. Whereas our brave Generals, according to the old *Britiſh* Way of Fighting, force their Lines, Camps, Entrenchments, Ditches, Walls, and every Thing that ſtands in their Way.

Obſ. I perceive *Joan*'s a *Virago*, *Roger*: She talks like an *Amazon*; and I fancy, if there were Occaſion, ſhe would fight like one too.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter; whenever there's any Noiſe of a *French* Invaſion, or a Plot, *Joan*, and my Daughter *Kate*, and the Maids, talk of rendeſvouzing with their Spits and Fire-forks, and ſet Kettles on the Fire, to have ſcalding Water at hand. 'Twould make one laugh, Maſter, to hear how they ſwagger, and talk what Wonders they would do for their Queen, their gracious Queen and Country. They vow, that had they the Management of Plotters, they would parboil them, and not one of 'em ſhould ſcape ſcot-free. But I muſt deſire your Thoughts, Maſter, on ſome Paſſages of our News from *Flanders.*

Obſ. What are the Paſſages, *Roger*?

Country-m. Why, Maſter, you find by the foreign News, that the *French* had form'd a Correſpondence, to get *Aeth*, *Antwerp*, and *Dendermond* betray'd to them; that *Bruſſels* it ſelf was in Danger, and therefore ſome Ladies that were ſuſpected of keeping a Correſpondence with the Enemy, are ſent from thence; and there's a Paragraph, which to me, looks very odd. I had it from a Gentleman, who tranſlated it from the Article of *Bruſſels*, of the firſt Inſtant, N. S. in the *Dutch Amſterdam Gazette*, of the third, *viz.* That the Marquiſs *de Terracena*, Governor of the Caſtle of *Antwerp*, would not allow the *Dutch* Guards to keep Watch in the Gate of the Caſtle; which to me looks pretty ſtrange, conſidering the former Accounts we had, that the *French* had corrupted Part of the Garriſon there.

Obſ. Perhaps that may proceed only from a Point of Honour in the Marquiſs, *Roger*; for being a *Spaniard*, he may poſſibly think, that he and his *Spaniſh* Troops, are more fit to be truſted with a Poſt of that Importance, which belongs to his natural Sovereign, King *Charles* III. than others; yet I can hardly think, the *Dutch* Deputies would have inſiſted on ſuch a Thing, had they not ſeen it neceſſary: But we are not to wonder to find ſo much Treachery againſt King *Charles* in the *Netherlands*, and all other Parts of his Dominions, ſince the Pope encourages it by his Clergy, out of his Hatred to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, whereby, inſtead of behaving himſelf as our Saviour's Vicar, he acts a quite contrary Part, and countenances the moſt perfidious and treacherous Uſurpation of the Crown of *Spain*, by the Houſe of *Bourbon*, that perhaps ever was heard of in the Chriſtian World; and contrary to the moſt ſolemn and expreſs Treaties, Oaths, and Renunciations, by the preſent *French* King himſelf, and the *Infanta* his Wife, and by his Father and the *Infanta* his Mother; which were ratify'd by all the Legiſlative-Power of *France* and *Spain*, and by the Will of *Philip* IV. purſuant to thoſe Treaties and Renunciations.

But that which makes the Pope's Part in this the more odious, is, the Decretal of his Predeceſſor, Pope *Boniface* VIII. which ſays, That every Renunciation made upon Oath, by a Daughter above 12 Years of Age, in Favour of her Father, in order to a Contract of Marriage, by which a ſufficient Dowry is aſſign'd her, ought to be good in Law, tho' ſhe be under the Juriſdiction of her Father; all which Conditions were viſible by the late Queen of *France*'s Renunciation. Whereas the pretended Will of the late King of *Spain*, is contrary to this Decretal, which all *Roman* Catholicks ought to have a ſpecial Regard to; and 'tis plain, that the Pope, by encouraging the D. of *Anjou*'s Uſurpation, has thereby given a Wound to the Infallibility of his Chair, as he has made himſelf a Patron of the moſt notorious Breach of Oaths and Treatys, that ever was heard of; and at the ſame Time, has declar'd himſelf an Enemy to the Liberty of *Europe*, ſince thoſe Treaties, Renunciations, and Oaths, were expreſly made to prevent the uniting of theſe two Kingdoms, under either of the Families, becauſe it would manifeſtly overturn the Ballance of *Chriſtendom*, and pave a Way for making the Empire, and all the reſt of the Princes and States of the *Weſtern* World, Slaves to either of the Families that ſhould bring thoſe two great Kingdoms under their Power.

This is enough, *Roger*, to convince any Man of Reaſon, that we and the *Dutch* are oblig'd, by Principle and Intereſt, and by Virtue of the Grand Alliance, to ſupport the Emperor in whatever Meaſures ſhall be neceſſary to bring the Pope to Reaſon, and to oblige him to obſerve a ſtrict Neutrality at his Peril: And this the Emperor is capable of doing this very Winter, by our Aſſiſtance, without

out endangering the Affairs of the Allies elsewhere; so that all the Scheme of that Author, who has wrote with so much Forwardness against the Emperor in this Matter, falls to the Ground at once, because it is built upon plain Mistakes in Matter of Fact. But more of this another Time, *Roger*.

Country-m. I find we must be very cautious, Master, in what we say of the Affairs of *Flanders*; for we have Adversaries, who, by their *Innuendo's*, would represent us as Enemies to his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*, and charge us with reflecting upon him.

Obs. I heartily wish, *Roger*, that they who gave the Rise to such Suggestions against us, may be as true Friends at Bottom to his Grace, as you and I: But there's no Fence against Prejudice. I am certain they cannot produce one disrespectful Word of his Grace, or of the Government, in any of our Papers; for 'tis plain we have always treated him with the greatest Honour, whenever we had Occasion to mention him, as 'twas our Duty to do. His Grace's Merit is too bright to be tarnish'd by Slander, and considering, that by his personal Conduct and Bravery, he has rais'd himself to the highest Pitch of Honour and Grandeur, that any Subject in *Europe* has done of a long Time, and that he has receiv'd the publick Thanks of the Nation, as well as everlasting Monuments of their Gratitude for his glorious Atchievements, 'twere Folly, as well as Wickedness, for any private Man, slanderously to attack his Reputation: And if all that we have said, as to the Affairs of *Flanders*, be taken together, as it ought in Justice to be, 'twill appear to every unbyass'd Reader, that our Design was to obviate Murmurs and Calumnies, and not to defend them: But if People will take Things by Pieces, they may make Blasphemy of the Scripture it self.

Country-m. There are some little Fellows, Master, when employ'd in an Office, love to be busy, and to annoy their Fellow-Subjects, especially such as are call'd Whigs; and since we can name Persons still employ'd, that were infamous Tools, in the late Arbitrary Reigns, we are not to wonder, that such as swore falsely against Whigs in these Days, should tell impudent Lies of them now, and endeavour to incense the Government, by their Tittle Tattle, against such as you and I, who defend the Principles of the Revolution; whilst those who write against them, not only pass unpunish'd, but are caress'd, and perhaps rewarded. To me 'tis very strange, that when our *Gazette*, and all the other publick Papers, have, from Time to Time, taken Notice of Treachery and Neglect among the *Flemings*, by which Towns have been betray'd, the Siege retarded, and our Army straitned; that we may not talk of those Things, but we must be construd to reflect upon our own Generals, whose Valour and Conduct we have always applauded. But, bless'd be God, we live under a Government that will not allow the Lyon to call the Ass's Ears Horns. We have a Set of just Judges, and other able and experienc'd Lawyers imploy'd by the Government, from whom we are not to fear, that *Innuendo's* shall pass for a true Charge against any Person, contrary to our Declaration of Rights. But more of this as there shall be Occasion, Master. I must now desire your Thoughts upon the afflicting Providence of his Royal Highness's Death.

Obs. 'Tis a melancholy Subject, *Roger*; but 'tis our Comfort, that God governs the World, and that he has promis'd every Thing shall turn to the best for those that fear him, Afflictions not excepted; and we have Reason to hope, that the Goodness of God, who has made her Majesty to triumph so frequently over her own, and *Europe*'s Enemies, will not suffer her to fall under her Grief, wherein all good Subjects are Partakers; for it must be own'd, that a Great Man is fallen in our *Israel*; Great by his Birth; Great by his Actions in the Field; Great by his Stedfastness to the Protestant Religion; for the Sake of which, he despis'd the Crown of *Poland*, as *Moses* did that of *Ægypt*; Great by his Happiness to be her Majesty's Choice for a suitable Husband; Great for his just Return of Conjugal Affection, so rare among Princes; Great for his timely Concurrence with her Majesty in the late happy Revolution; and still more Great, for being the Royal Consort of so glorious a Queen; Great in the Esteem of this Nation, who made such honourable Provision for him, in Case he had happen'd to survive her Majesty; Great for not making Use of his Greatness, as others have done in the like Case, to oppress our Country; and now eternally glorious. I doubt not, *Roger*, but Vows are constantly made to Heaven for her Majesty's Support under this heavy Affliction, that she may still be made a more glorious Instrument in the Hand of God, until she be happy in everlasting Glory, with him who was her chief Comfort on Earth.

Country-m. Well, Master, I must pray you to give my Country-Muse Leave to weep out the following Lines upon his Royal Highness.

Could Royal Vertues, join'd with Royal Birth;
Could Prayers and Tears o'th' Greatest Queen on Earth;
Could Europe's *Vows, and Subjects Wishes, save*
The Lives of Mortals from their destin'd Grave,
Methuselah's *Days had the fix'd Period been*
Of this Great Hero's living with his Queen.

N. B. In our two last Papers, *viz.* Numb. 72. pag. 2. col. 1. line 51. for *no*, read *the*; line 57. for *Fault*, read *Faults*. Numb. 73. pag. 2. col. 1. line 18. for *denying*, read *declaring*; line 70. for *Fundatories*, read *Feudatories*.

Advertisements.

This Day is publish'd,

†‡† An Elegy on the much lamented Death of his Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark, Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, and Generalissimo of all Her Majesty's Forces, &c. Who departed this Life October 28. 1708. Printed and sold by B. Bragge, in Pater-Noster-Row.

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¶ Any Gentlemen, who have any thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are desir'd to direct it to be left with H. Meere, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Observator, Post pay'd. Where Advertisements are taken in.

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